



Clermont County On The Move

a newsletter for citizens

Commissioners: Mary Walker, Bob Proud, and Scott Croswell

July 2004

www.co.clermont.oh.us

Clermont County is Open for Business!

What is it that makes Clermont County such an attractive location to live, work, and raise a family? How are we perceived regionally and nationally? Perhaps it is the unique qualities of each of our communities that best defines who we are and why increasing numbers of individuals choose to call Clermont County "home."

In today's competitive and transitional world, more families and employers are looking for that perfect recipe for a community that offers thriving neighborhoods, close proximity to jobs, excellent schools, quality retail establishments, and infrastructure that provides for future measured growth.

Thankfully, in this competitive economic development marketplace, Clermont County has this great advantage. Preserving and building upon this edge, is the challenge we face. How can the charm, vitality, and uniqueness of each Clermont County village, township, and city be maintained, when the resource

base of each is often limited? When our communities do not possess enough resources to promote themselves, how can we maintain and build upon our principal asset: the character of our communities?

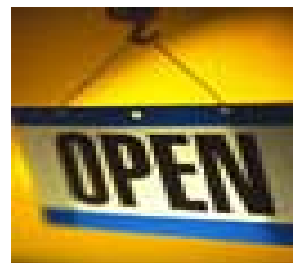
The fast emerging Clermont County economic development initiative is the answer to this challenge. By combining the ideas, talents, funds, and other resources of our public, private, and civic sectors, we can maintain our unique competitive advantage; we can also grow to new heights of community wealth, progress, self-sufficiency. The goal and ultimate prize for the success of our shared economic development venture will be the sustained vibrancy of our individual communities.

Together, we can accomplish goals none of us could individually.



Various programs and initiatives have been launched to assure that Clermont County remains strong and vibrant, attracting and retaining progressive economic development ventures. Please visit our home page at www.co.clermont.oh.us for updated information on projects and initiatives.

Your continuing involvement is deeply appreciated. Your questions, comments, and ideas are needed, valued, and are essential for Clermont County's economic development success. You and your community are why Clermont County is **Open for Business!**



Sheriff's Office Launches Motorcycle Program

By: Sheriff's Department



On Wednesday, June 9, Sheriff Rodenberg and Chief Deputy Combs received two new Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles from Harley Davidson-Eastgate. The Sheriff's Office negotiated a lease with Eastgate Harley through which they will have exclusive use of the motorcycles for one year at a cost of \$1 each. Sheriff Rodenberg and Chief Deputy Combs covered this lease payment with a dollar from each of their wallets. Sheriff Rodenberg thanked Chief Deputy Combs, and the staff at Harley-Eastgate, in particular the owner, Ken Minor, as well as sales representatives Lance Henninger and Steve Brock, for formulating the lease agreement.

In addition to the motorcycles, valued at \$16,000 each, another \$11,000 was needed for equipment for the cycles and for the officers who will ride them. Through donations from several individuals, businesses, and military veterans' associations this entire amount was received. Thus, the implementation of the motorcycle program did not cost the taxpayers any money, nor has the Sheriff's Office used any of its budgetary appropriations to cover the expenses. Sheriff Rodenberg thanked all who generously donated to this endeavor, and expressed the enthusiasm of his staff and himself for the motorcycle program which will hopefully provide yet another valuable service to the citizens of Clermont County.

CLERMONT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY GOES BILINGUAL

"Hola! Tiene usted tarjeta de biblioteca? No? Llame esta aplicacion. Gracias!"

Are you lost in translation? Imagine over-hearing your librarian speaking Spanish with a patron. You have no idea she just said, "Hello! Do you have a library card? No? Fill out this application. Thank you!" This may seem foreign now, but thanks to a Library Services and Technology Act mini-grant, the Union Township Branch of the Clermont County Public Library (CCPL) will soon provide bilingual services to its patrons. *Service in Any Language* is a pilot project that will eventually be utilized at other CCPL branches.

Service in Any Language is funded, in part, through an Institute of Museum and Library Services LSTA grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio. CCPL received \$16,642 to incorporate a second language into the already existing library system. The grant will enable CCPL to purchase Spanish-language books, materials, and computer software for both children and adults. There will be cultural displays and programs, such as Spanish story times, held at the Union Township Branch.

Service in Any Language will help the Hispanic/Latino community access resource tools, improve their English skills, and learn more about living in the United States. Non-Spanish speaking library patrons can learn a new language and familiarize themselves with another culture.

Leslie Massey, Clermont County Public Library Co-Director, says, "We are very excited to offer these new services to our bilingual patrons. We're also looking forward to expanding similar services to other language speakers throughout Clermont County."

For more information, contact the Union Township Branch Library at (513) 528-1744.



July Commissioner Sessions

Tuesday, July 13	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 20	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 27	11:00 a.m.

All regular sessions are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 East Main Street in Batavia, Ohio. For agenda information, contact the BCC offices at (513) 732-7300.

Elaine Miller Top Mover!

By: Donna Hart

Congratulations to Elaine Miller from the Sheriff's Office! She came in first place in the recent *Move A Measured Mile* competition in the county. Elaine racked-up 521 points in the physical fitness competition. Rounding out the top 10 movers and shakers: Tim Kelly from the Health District/Permit Central (358), Carmella Jacobs from the Auditor's Office (339), Dave Spinney from the BCC (249), Sanna Gast from CPS (247), Carol Brothers from the Park District (222), Dan Sullivan from MRDD (215), Crissy Rolph from the Building Dept. (173), Penny Gates from Domestic Relations (155) and John Sims from the Recorder's Office (152).

Second-Half Taxes Due

By: Debbie Shebesta, Treasurer's Office

Approximately 40,000 second-half 2003 real estate tax bills are in the mail to taxpayers without bank/mortgage company escrow accounts, said Clermont County Treasurer J. Robert True. The deadline for payment is July 8, 2004. Taxes can be paid by mail, or in person at the Treasurer's Office on the second floor of the County Administration Building, 101 E. Main Street, Batavia, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can also make your payment at the following: First Clermont Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Lebanon-Citizens National Bank, National Bank and Trust, New Richmond National Bank, and U.S. Bank. Taxes may also be paid over the internet (www.officialpayments.com) or by phone at 1-800-272-9829.

A night deposit box is located at the Main Street entrance of the Clermont County Administration Building for payment of taxes after regular business hours.

If you have any questions about tax payments, call 732-7254, email us at treasurer@co.clermont.oh.us or visit our website, www.clermonttreasurer.org.

Welcome New Clermont County Employees!

DJFS - Bobbi Frazee, Anne Justice
Fleet - Ben Richmond
OTCS - Thomas Doecker



Face Lift for Recorder's Office!

By: Carolyn Green, Recorder's Office

The Recorder's office has a new look. We have upgraded our systems with new software and equipment.

In the public area we now have: twelve, 19" monitors (which provide a greater viewing area), twelve Dell optiplex GX270 with keyboards (for faster processing), and two high speed HP4200 laser printers.



We've also upgraded departmental equipment, with the addition of flatscreen monitors, updated printers and scanners, and equipment to all for safer storage of records in the event of a power outage. We've also added off-site data replication, with record backups out of state.

New website interface allows citizens to access information easier and faster.

We are very pleased with our service based computer system and are proud of the fact that the continuous upgrades in equipment and software are paid for from the Recorder's supplemental fund. Currently, we are paying less for this computer system than we have previous systems.

Stop by and see us for a demonstration or check out our website at www.landaccess.com.



What's Up at Clermont County Parks?

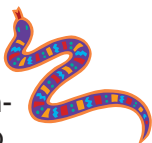
By: Keith Robinson, Park District

Arrowhead Reptile Rescue

Wednesday, July 14, 7:00 p.m.

Pattison Park Lodge

Arrowhead Reptile Rescue is a non-profit organization dedicated to caring for injured and orphaned reptiles. They will present a live-animal demonstration. Learn how to differentiate venomous snakes from non-venomous snakes as you get a close up look at a Copperhead. In addition exotic reptiles from around the world will be on display including an alligator and monitor lizard, among others. For more information, call 513-876-9013.



Fossil Fun

Tuesday, July 20, 6:30 p.m.

Sycamore Park

Take a journey back to Ordovician times 450 million years ago, when the area now known as Ohio was covered by a warm tropical ocean. Over time, Ohio



lifted up out of the ocean, and drifted north. Many of the sea creatures of the Ordovician time have been preserved in the limestone and shale of the Greater Cincinnati area. We'll

identify several common local fossils, search the creek at Sycamore Park for Bryozoans, Brachio-pods and other ancient sea creatures, and you can make your own fossil to take home. Meet at Sycamore #1 shelter.

Scenic River Walk

Saturday, July 24, 10:00 a.m.

Kelley Nature Preserve

Take a walk along the Little Miami, Ohio's first state and national scenic river. Keep your eyes and ears open for Great Blue Herons, beavers and many other animals that call Kelley Nature Preserve home. As long as water levels are not too high you'll be able to use a dip net to explore the smaller creatures that depend on this important and scenic river.



Cute Kitten!

This adorable kitten is one of many now available for adoption. Please call.

Clermont Animal Shelter
732-8854

Certification Training Completed

Six Clermont Officers Awaiting Test Results

By: Lt. David Williamson, Sheriff's Dept.

Basic certification training for corrections officers was conducted at the Clermont County Jail from May 3 -June 4, 2004. The class was comprised of six employees of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office and two officers from neighboring Warren County.

The training is a requirement for all Ohio corrections officers, to be completed in their first year of employment. The final examination will be administered June 23 in Columbus, Ohio; a score of 70 percent or above is necessary for the students to receive their state certification.

Academy closing ceremonies were held Friday, June 4, at the Clermont County Sheriff's Office. Corrections Officer Patricia Simpson, from Warren County, was awarded the honor of class valedictorian. Sheriff A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg and Clermont County Commissioner Scott Croswell addressed the class during ceremonies.

Class members included: Stephen Bogan, Shane Clephane, Robert Edwards, Joshua Oberschlake, Patricia Simpson, Shaun Thompson, Joshua Tucker, and Robert Zinnecker.

Friends of MRDD Award Presented

By: Lisa Davis, MRDD

Members of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office are the latest recipients of the "Friends of MRDD" Award, presented during a recognition ceremony at the Thomas A. Wildey Center on June 2. This award is given to those individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty to make the world a better place for children and adults who are served by the Clermont County MRDD program, and the Sheriff's Office qualifies in many ways. Most significantly, these gentlemen took time out of their busy schedules to play a basketball game against the Wildey Comets during March Madness this year, and graciously "took a beating" by the Wildey team. In fact, they've played several games against the Comets in previous years, but somehow the team from Wildey always becomes the winner!



Those present to accept the award (pictured above) were: David Williamson, Russell Kenney, Tim Zurmehly, and Sheriff Rodenberg. We have it on good authority the Sheriff's Team plans to come on strong next year...we'll just see about that!

Lightning Alert

By: Clermont Department of Public Safety Services

Although lightning can strike at any time of the year, severe summer storms can trigger increased activity. Each year, an estimated 100 people, nationwide, die due to lightning strikes. In May, a Lebanon man died after being struck at a Warren County campground.

There are some important things to keep in mind to keep you and your family safe: lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and can occur up to 10 miles away from the rainstorm, a severe thunderstorm can produce damaging winds as strong as the winds in a weak tornado, lightning strikes somewhere on the earth 100 times each second, if you can hear thunder you are close enough to a storm to be struck by lightning.

If there is a thunderstorm in the area, do not take a bath or shower, go swimming, or boating. Water is an electrical conductor.

For additional information, check the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's website at www.ema.ohio.gov/weather.htm.

Cool-Aid Relief

By: Erica O'Neil, Juvenile Probation

Judge Stephanie Wyler and Clermont County Juvenile Court, in conjunction with "4thetroops," is organizing a Cool-Aid Relief Drive for American troops overseas.



The relief drive is aimed at collecting "cooling" and heat relief items for the troops. These items include: misty mates, camping fans, Gatorade drink mix, fly swatters, sunscreen, etc.

The items are being collected by Juvenile Court through July 15, 2004.

For additional information contact Erica O'Neil at 732-7633.

On the Move is a service of the Board of Clermont County Commissioners. For more information about any of the articles included in this publication, contact Kathy Lehr or Bobbi Padgett at **732-7597**.